# BRITAIN JUSTIFIES

United States Passports Misused.

The note adds that a further reason for bringing ships into harbor is the necessity for close examination of all necessity for close examination of all suspected persons, which has been made necessary by "the German practice of misusing United States passports to procure a safe conduct for military persons and agents."

At great length the note discusses the question of the proof of the destination of contraband.

"The right of a belligerent to intercept contraband on its way to his enemy," it says, "is fundamental and incontestable, and ought not to be re-

my," it says, "is fundamental and in-contestable, and ought not to be re-stricted to intercepting contraband which happens to be accompanied on board the ships by proof sufficient to condemn it. What is essential is to determine whether or not the goods were on their way to the enemy. If they were a belligerent in entitled to detain them, and, having regard to the



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there.

It discloses that "an impartial and influential commission" has been appointed to find ways to minimize delays, and pledges to the Allies to make their restraints on trade as little burdensome to neutrals as possible. The note, in which the French government concurs, reiterates the military necessity of regulating commerce to neutrals contiguous to Germany and justiness the effectiveness of the blockade which was challenged by the last American note. Further diplomatic correspondence over the issue is expected.

Neutral Action Welcomed.

"His majesty's government," says the note, "has noted with sincere satisfaction the influence of search and the sea enables the Allies to imposs the note, "has noted with sincere satisfaction the influence of sea power and destroy the exercise of sea power and destroy the exercise of sea power and destroy the exercise of sea power and destroy the renew,"

It is of course inevitable that the formulation contained in the concluding passages of the United

Why Cotton Is Contraband.

The putting of cotton on the contraband list, the note says, was forced by the accumulation of evidence that it was being used only for military purposes in Germany and that its use for other purposes was prohibited. The note remarks:

"Although these measures may have been provoked by the illegal conduct of the enemy, they do not in reality conflict with any general principle of international law, of humanity or of civilization; they are enforced with consideration against neutral countries and are, therefore, juridically sound and valid.

"His majesty's government desires

and valid.

"His majesty's government desires to assure the United States government that it will continue its afforts to make the exercise of what it conceives to be its belligerent rights as little burdensome to neutrals as possible."

The note is about 13,000 words long and contains some appendices and a statement from the French Minister of Marine sustaining the view expressed by Admiral Jellicoe.

## Seven Miles to Arden

Full of charm and brimming with whimsical humor is this outdoor romance. And all through it sparkles a perfect dear of a girl, clever, bright, vivacious, witty, lov-able. Of course

there is also a man in it-several men. for that matter. But there is one, a vagabond, such a vaga-bond as J. M. Barrie

HARPER & BROTHERS

## Battle for Verdun Another Gettysburg

METHODS AT SEA.

REPLIES TO U.S.

REPLIE

heavy and light artillery without the support of his own heavy artillery, and all the advantage of surprise has gone.

What happened at Verdun is what happened in the Champagne. The German advance was quite as successful rather more successful than the French last September; it covered three or four miles on a considerable front, and it even reached Douaumont, one of the old forts and the fort which was placed on the highest hill in the environs of

conly by bridges, some of which presently came under German fire, and there was every possibility that these troops might be cut off and captured if the German advance were pushed home far enough on the west bank of the Meuse and the German artillery was successful in interrupting the passage of the river. It was a perilous position, and there were some days when the situation seemed critical.

Accordingly, when the German drive at Verdun was at last disclosed in its real magnitude Joffre prepared to evacuate the town.

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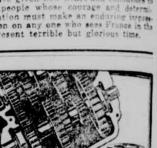
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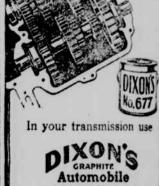


was the first thing of the sort in the war period. Frenchmen did not say that Verdun was the beginning of the end, and they did not forecast the prompt collapse of Germany. They did not even forecast the immediate end of the fighting about Verdun. They did not regard the victory as a Waterloo or a Sedan or any other foolish thing. But they did rather coolly and quite calmly appraise the thing and see in it the biggest German failure since the Marne, and a failure in a fight in which the Germans had laid down all the conditions in advance and advertised the victory that they did not achieve as promising the collapse of French endurance and spirit.

The Battle of Verdun was a battle

The Battle of Verdun was a battle for moral values, and the possession of the town itself was never of any real military value. Verdun commands and habited it is Ypres after the first gas attack a year ago. The French army leaders judged the Verdun position as not worth the cost of defending. They were overruled by the politicians and they defended it successfully. But their first decision is the best evidence of the wholly illustry when the cost of the cost of the cost of the wholly illustry when the cost of the cost o



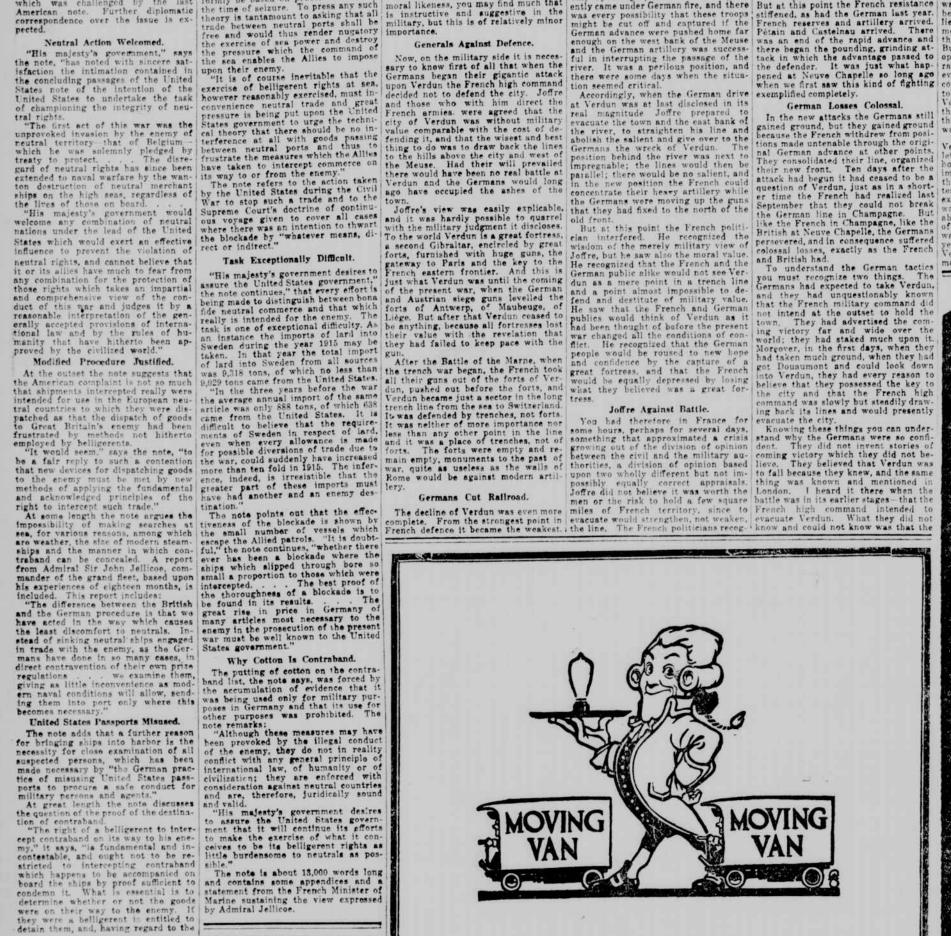


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